

U.S. Pat. App. No.: 10/705,718
Atty. Docket No.: 003797.00711

There are no Amendments to the Drawings.

The Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.

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REMARKS

Applicants respectfully ask for reconsideration of both this application and the Office Action dated May 16, 2005.

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application. Claim 19 is amended herein to correct the dependency of this claim from claim 1 to claim 11.

In the Office Action, claims 1-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 for purportedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, and ask for its reconsideration.

Applicants respectfully point out that claims 1-20 are apparatus claims. For examples, claims 1-10 recite a tool for associating characters, while claims 11-20 recite a tool for converting characters of a first type into characters of a second type. Because these claims are apparatus claims and are not otherwise directed toward subject matter against public policy, Applicants submit that these claims are directed to statutory subject matter. With regard to method claims 21-25, these claims recite the process step of providing an indicator that associates a first group of a plurality of characters into a segment. As these claims recite this step of providing a tangible construct, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims likewise are directed to statutory subject matter. It is therefore requested that the rejection of claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. §101 be withdrawn.

Next, claims 1-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over U.S. Patent No. 6,694,055 to Wu in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,766,320 to Wang et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, but courteously submit that this rejection is moot. Applicants point out that this

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application and the Wu and Wang et al. patents are all owned (and have been owned) by Microsoft Corporation. In accordance with 35 U.S.C. §103(c), the Wu and Wang et al. patents (both of which only qualify as prior art to the instant application under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)) cannot be used to preclude the patentability of claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Applicants therefore ask that this rejection of claims 1-25 be withdrawn.

It is believed that no fees are due for the entry and consideration of this Amendment. If, however, the Commissioner believes that fees are required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees deemed necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any fees under 35 U.S.C. §1.16 and §1.17, to the deposit account of the undersigned, Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are allowable, and that this application is therefore in condition for allowance. Applicants courteously ask for favorable action at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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